

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 611
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize the efforts of the estimable Johnson City Rotary Club of Washington County.

WHEREAS, service organizations have a rich history of benevolence and play a vital role in American society, serving as a testament to the virtues of integrity and compassion; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize the members of those service organizations who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Johnson City, founded in 1916, is one such estimable service organization; its membership of 170 business and community leaders, under the direction of President Dr. Dan Schumaier, evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Rotarian motto of "Service Above Self" inspires members to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and promote good will and peace throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Johnson City Rotary Club, believing that the most critical current social crisis is drug, alcohol and tobacco ("DAT") use, have created a quality program, known as "DAT ain't cool," in order to educate young people and convince them of the need to avoid the use of these substances; and

WHEREAS, the "DAT ain't cool" program seeks to influence the attitudes of young people using brief, intimate, fact-based presentations, during which local physicians, judges, law enforcement personnel, and individuals whose lives have been negatively affected by illegal substance abuse speak openly and memorably from their own personal experience; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this honest, frank, and sometimes disturbing approach, the negative and very real consequences of choosing to use drugs, alcohol, or tobacco are emphasized, effectively de-glamorizing both the substances and those who use them; and

WHEREAS, the “DAT ain’t cool” program is dedicated to the thousands of youths who have already lost their lives to drugs, alcohol, or tobacco; its singular goal is to identify and promote “good” and healthy choices by focusing on the “cool” factor inherent in a life of freedom from disease, addiction, and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the Johnson City Rotary Club is dedicated to this worthy effort to help curb the use of these deleterious substances, hoping to assist in securing the futures of our children as proud and productive citizens in the community; and

WHEREAS, one hour-long “DAT ain’t cool” presentation has been filmed before a packed house at Indian Trail Middle School, and is now available on a locally-produced DVD; a copy is given to each child at the end of every presentation so that he or she may take it home and invite further discussion with their families; and

WHEREAS, after listening to a litany of undesirable and “uncool” events common to those who use substances, such as arrests, loss of driving privileges, and jail visits with shattered family members, the children are given a glow-in-the-dark bracelet which bears the now-familiar adage, “DAT ain’t cool”; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is proud to recognize the Johnson City Rotary Club and the integral role the organization plays in addressing the rampant use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco by our youth; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to take this golden opportunity to honor and recognize the members of the Johnson City Rotary Club for their endeavors to make a difference in the lives and futures of our precious children by emphasizing the importance of never opening the door to drugs, alcohol, and tobacco in their lives; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the members of the Johnson City Rotary Club of Washington County upon their meritorious efforts to combat an enormous social crisis,

their dedication to the health and well-being of the children in our society, and their provision of estimable service to humanity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.